23rd November 1955]

Coir Industry in Malabar

* 2751 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any proposal has been submitted by the State Government to the Centre for improving the Coir Industry in Malabar ; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : If the Government have not made any suggestion to the Central Government as to the improvement of coir industry in Malabar, what steps this Government are going to take with regard to the coir industry?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : A scheme for the reorganization of coir industry in Malabar and South Kanara districts on co-operative basis has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan. The scheme contemplates the starting of 50 coir workers' co-operative societies at the rate of 10 each year and two Central Marketing Societies to be established in Malabar. Each of the 50 coir workers' co-operative societies will be given a subsidy of Rs. 2,500 per annum and an interest free loan of Rs. 25,000. The Central Marketing Societies will be given a subsidy of Rs. 20,000 per annum each and an interest free loan of Rs. 2,50,000. The total cost of the scheme for five years is estimated to be Rs. 22·85 lakhs. Further, a scheme for starting coir demonstration centres at Ponnani and Badagara has also been included in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Sir, in view of the pronounced unemployment in Malabar, will the Government try to start definite schemes on the co-operative lines suggested now for the coir industry, for other industries which are also congenial in that area such as making matches, etc.? 9-10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. In the Second Five-Year Plan we have introduced a scheme to start 100 match factories some of which will be located in Malabar.

Extra allowance for night duty nurses

* 2752 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any extra allowance is given to the night duty nurses in Government Hospitals in the State?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir.

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : In view of the special hardship that these nurses work during night hours, will the Government see that some extra allowance is given to them?